REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application and the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim rejection – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 8-13 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,047,259 to Campbell et al. ("Campbell"). In this reply, without conceding to the propriety of the rejections, applicants are amending claims 1, 8-13, and 16-17 to recite, "observation sentence." Support for the amendments can be found at least in Fig. 10, reference item 72 that shows a text window with a sentence. Claims 1, 9-13 and 16-17 are independent.

Campbell as understood by applicants discloses an interactive management system for managing physical exams, diagnosis, and prescription. Campbell, however, does not disclose every element claimed in independent claims and dependent claims as amended. For example, Campbell fails to disclose or suggest at least, "the observation text generation unit generates the observation sentence by arranging a word and phrase that have been, in advance, associated with the supplementary information relating to the selection result obtained by the supplementary information result obtaining unit before and after the observation term relating to the selection result obtained by the observation term selection result obtaining unit," claimed in independent claim 1 and similarly claimed in independent claims 9-13 and 16-17 as amended.

The Office Action cites Campbell's column 13, line 66 through column 14, line 8, column 18, line 61 through column 19, line 7 as allegedly disclosing that element.

Applicants disagree.

While Campbell in those passages appears to disclose drop down boxes with list, via which a user manually selects an input by clicking on the boxes or manually selects text input from the drop-down boxes, Campbell in those passages or anywhere else still does not disclose or suggest generating a sentence that describes or represents observation terms and supplementary information.

On the other hand, in the novel observation input process of the present disclosure (shown in Figs. 6A and 6B) and as claimed, a CPU performs the process in which a sentence is generated by arranging, before and after an observation term, a word or phrase that is associated with a selected attribute, particular region (i.e., supplementary information), or like. Furthermore, unlike in Campbell where a user enters text input by selecting from a list of text in the drop-down list, in the present application, a CPU automatically generates the observation sentence using a word or phrase that is associated with a selected attribute, particular region (i.e., supplementary information), or like. In the present application, the system performs the process of generating sentences out of its observation, and thus it is helpful for a patient or like having little medical knowledge to understand the contents of the observation. Campbell fails to show such arrangement of words in a sentence that describes the observation contents, for example, for aiding in easy understanding.

For at least the above reasons, independent claims 1, 9-13 and 16-17, and their respective dependent claims at least by virtue of dependencies are not anticipated by Campbell.

This communication is believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and every effort has been made to place the application in condition for allowance. A favorable Office Action is hereby earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might

expedite prosecution of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner call applicant's attorney at (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,

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